

English Martyrs Catholic Primary School

"where everyone is special"

Newsletter 9: 25th May 2017

Year 6 SATS breakfast club

A big thankyou to all the parents who gave up their time to provide a breakfast club for year 6 during the SATS. It provided a calm start to the school day and I know the children and staff appreciated it.



Lenten Charities



The dressing up days during Lent raised in total **£512.13**. These funds will be distributed to three charities: Myton Hospice, The Andrew Clark Trust in Myanmar and HCPT. These charities are very grateful to the children for supporting their cause and their money will make a difference.

Google Expedition

Google Expeditions is a virtual reality teaching tool that lets you lead or join immersive virtual trips all over the world – get up close with historical landmarks, dive underwater with sharks, even visit outer space!

Built for the classroom and small group use, Google Expeditions allows a teacher acting as a "guide" to lead classroom-sized groups of "explorers" through collections of 360° and 3D images while pointing out interesting sights along the way.

The children had great fun on their virtual trips and we would love to be able to buy the necessary equipment to do this permanently at school. I am sure the PTFA would love to support this project. We were very privileged that Google agreed to come out to the school and allow us to see the ideas in action.

Quiz Night

A big thankyou to the PTFA for organising the quiz night. It was a great night for all and they raised **£271** for the school. A medal of endurance should be awarded to Mr Stalker for keeping order throughout the evening.



Readathon Week and the Reading Café-What fun!!

The children raised around £2100 from the sponsored Readathon and the book sale. 55 children took part in the sponsored event and they should be extremely proud of themselves as their efforts has enabled each class to improve their reading environments significantly-for the benefit of all of the children. Each year group had a prize for the child who had read the most during this time and a prize for the child who had raised the most money.

READING CAFÉ: THURSDAY 4TH MAY 2017



Some members of year six were invited to read a pre-publication copy of, 'The City of Secret Rivers' by Jacob Sager Weinstein by the children's publisher, Walker books. The children had to read the book and write a review of it, as well as contributing ideas for an app related to the text. The publishers were so impressed by Isabella, Fangyi and Pritesh's comments that they decided to include a recommendation page at the start of the book, featuring quotations from the children's reviews, as well as giving the school a visit from the author for years five and six in July!

Year 4 Trip to Compton Verney- a day enjoyed by all



PICCOLLAGE

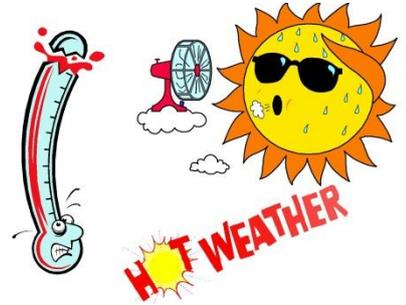


Ice Pops

Ice Pops on Sale every Monday, Wednesday and Friday for **50p** all monies raised for School Funds.

Hot weather alert

Please apply sun cream to the children before they arrive at school. We are unable to keep sunscreen in school for the children and staff are not permitted to apply it on children. During the hot weather this week, the majority of children did not have a sun hat with them to protect them from the sun's rays. Ensure your child has plain drinking water in a non-breakable bottle in school, which is to go home each evening to be washed and refilled. During the hot dinnertimes the midday supervisors provide chilled water outside for the children to drink.



Payments

Recently there have been a minority of parents who are not paying for dinner money, swimming, music lessons etc on time. I understand that many families can face difficulties when the biological parents of the children are not together anymore and they share responsibility for the welfare of the children. However the school can not/will not get involved in disputes between parents over payments. Bills will not be divided and sent to parents separately. The school office is not equipped to take on this huge workload and become involved in disputes, it is the responsibility of parents to communicate between themselves and ensure that all funds are paid.

School Uniform changes

As previously explained in a newsletter, the school has introduced a new outdoor PE uniform. This includes a hoodie/sweatshirt for outdoor PE with tracksuit bottoms. The hoodie is embroidered with the school logo but the tracking bottoms are not. The PE top has been changed from a white polo shirt to a blue polo shirt (with a school logo). This new outdoor kit will also be worn when the children enter competitions. The school continues to allow children to wear dark blue plain (no logo) shorts, trainers for outdoor PE (KS2). Children doing PE in the hall should be in bare feet unless a child has a verucca and then they must wear black plain PE pumps. This new kit will be ready for September, provided by the schoolwear company in town, final costings will be distributed soon, as we are negotiating a package price if parents purchase the kit together. I appreciate that for some families kits are handed down and for the next academic year 2017-2018 it will be a year of transition but all children will be expected to have it in place from September 2018.

Summer Uniform-a polite reminder

During the Summer Term only to the Autumn Half term, girls are permitted to wear a Check blue and white gingham dress (not to be worn with tights) with white socks. Gingham skirts are not part of the school uniform or dresses with a white top and a gingham skirt design. If parents are not sure about the uniform policy it is on the website.

Building Fund

I have attached a copy of the letter which was sent out to parents in January asking them to contribute to the building fund. Many thanks to the **18** families who have committed funds already, some have made a one off contribution, others monthly, termly or annually. All funds are greatly appreciated. If you wish to contribute please see the office for the appropriate forms to complete and they are also on the school website to be downloaded.

Re: Reintroduction of the school building fund at English Martyrs

Dear Parents

English Martyrs is a Catholic voluntary aided school. This means that while most of our income is derived from local Government funds, as a Catholic school, we must contribute 10% of the cost for major improvements and for the maintenance of our school buildings. Without the school having the money to contribute the 10% we are unable to apply for any funds through LCVAP (capital funding from government) or devolved formulae capital to enhance the school and maintain the site.

As you are aware, the school was successful in bidding for funds to have a new boiler installed, which happened over the summer, radiators were also updated in the Ark Building. The boiler at the time was obsolete and was not in operation in any other schools due to its age. We would have been unable to make any repairs on the boiler as its parts were also obsolete. The school had to pay from its budget 10% of the total cost, which was around £13,000. The school did not have the money within its own budget to do this and on this occasion, due to the severity of the problem (if your boiler is not working a school would have to be closed), the diocese allowed the school to repay the £13,000 over the next three years which we are very grateful for.

Governors and staff are committed to providing a high standard of learning environment and there is still a lot that we would like to achieve but we do need to continue to finance additional projects and essential maintenance works. There is an ever continuing need to refurbish our existing facilities to meet the requirements of today's education standards and improve the learning environment of the school for the benefit of all the children, staff and parents. As such schools are depending more on the generous voluntary contributions of parents.

Over fifteen years ago, The Archdiocese of Birmingham introduced a Building Fund, in which parents contribute money which can be paid weekly, monthly, quarterly or annually. The school can then use this money towards building projects. English Martyrs has always been part of this scheme and there is currently one family who makes regular contributions.. In some schools they have been able to raise enough money to build new classrooms or libraries. Parents can set up standing orders and contributions can also be Gift Aided, which means that the school can reclaim from HMRC the basic rate tax you have already paid on your contribution. This increases the value of your contribution and at no extra cost to you. For each £100 that we receive we can claim back an additional £25. If parents wish to contribute in cash then we are also happy to receive this. All forms are to be returned to the school office in a sealed envelope, addressed with your child's name and **Building Fund** on the front of the envelope.

The forms have been distributed via email and a paper copy has been given to each child in the school. We would ask you to strongly consider making donations to the building fund and we thank you in advance for your continued support. If parents contributed at least £10 a term the school would be very grateful.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Gillian Deery

Headteacher

Diary Dates

June

5 th	Young Carers Assembly
6 th	Pentecost
6 th	Y5 - Young First Aiders training (all day)
8 th	Mass led by Year 5 (6)
8 th	Assembly led by year 6 on Election Day (children will be listening to the parties and voting)
10 th	2pm First Holy Communion
12 th	Phonics Assessment Week (Year 1 and identified Year 2 pupils)
13 th	Reception class - Fire Station visit
14 th	Y5 trip to Princethorpe Sports Day
14 th	New Foundation Stage Parent Meeting 7pm
15 th	Mass led by Y3 (Y4)
16 th	Film Night (Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2)
19 th	Youth for Christ assembly
22 nd	Mass led by foundation and Key stage 1
26 th	Proposed KS1 Football competition at Avon Valley
26 th	Week beginning the Sex Education Programme in Years 5 and 6 (Please speak to the teachers if you have questions or concerns)
28 th	Sports Day - Key Stage 1 9:30am, KS2 1:30pm
29 th	Whole School Mass - Holy Day of Obligation: St Peter and Paul- led by Y6 (Y5)

July

1 st	12pm Summer Fete
6 th	Mass led by Y4 (Y3)
7 th	Author visit to Years 5 and 6
10 th	Key Stage 2 Public Speaking Competition
11 th	Eastern area Year 6 Induction day
11 th	Transition afternoon to meet new teachers for

September 2017

11 th	2pm - 3pm Visit for new reception intake
12 th	Key Stage 1 Performing Arts Competition
13 th	Mass led by Foundation/Key stage 1
13 th	Key Stage 2 Music competition
14 th	PTFA Barn Dance (Tickets needed)
17 th	2pm & 6:30pm Year 6 production
18 th	Year 6 Retreat/Fun Day at Mater Ecclesiae Convent
19 th	Year 6 Leavers evening - Organised by parents
20 th	Mass - led by Year 6
21 st	1:30pm End of Term Presentations and Assembly
21 st	Last day of term

